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MONTANA COMMITTEE FOR THE
# HUMANITIES
NEWSLETTER

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## $275,000 Awarded For Second Year

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the Montana Committee for the Humanities $275,000 for its second year's program. This grant, which will run from October 1, 1973 to September 30, 1974, represents a major increase in funding over the first year's MCH program.

During the first, experimental, year the MCH supported a total of thirty-eight projects throughout Montana. The projects were sponsored by a wide variety of organizations and ad hoc groups and covered a vast spectrum of public issues under the theme, "Political Power in Montana."

"We have been more than gratified at the response in the state to this type of program," commented University of Montana President Robert T. Pantzer, MCH Chairman. "I believe that the National Endowment has been impressed by the success in Montana and has expressed its confidence in our program with the second-year award." He continued, "I am sure that our program this coming year will justify this confidence."

Due to the enthusiastic response to the theme "Political Power in Montana", it will be continued throughout the 1973-74 period. The Committee expects to receive proposals in the coming year similar to those already funded on such topics as education, women's status, Indian-non-Indian relationships, amnesty, grassroots-politics, gambling, land use, coal development, political history, and the Bicentennial, as well as proposals on new topics, such as religion and politics, and the rural-urban relationships in Montana.

Any non-profit group is eligible to apply for a grant. Projects must, in addition to relating to the state theme, focus on a public policy issue, substantially involve academic humanists, and include balanced dialogue in the program. Groups interested in applying can obtain forms from the MCH office.

HAROLD HUGHES

ROLLO MAY

## HAROLD HUGHES, ROLLO MAY, MICHAEL WALZER TO HIGHLIGHT STATE CONFERENCE

A senator who is quitting politics, a renowned psychiatrist, a professor of political theory: What do they have in common? A mutual interest in the ethical dilemmas involved in the exercise of political power. This is the theme of the second annual MCH Statewide Conference which will feature three nationally recognized speakers: Senator Harold Hughes, Dr. Rollo May, and Prof. Michael Walzer.

The conference, entitled "Politics: The Dilemma of Power and Morality," will take place between 1:00 p.m., Friday, November 30, and 3:30 p.m., Saturday, December 1, at the Ramada Inn in Billings.

In addition to the keynote addresses, distinguished Montanans including Former Governor Forrest Anderson, Attorney General Robert Woodahl, University of Montana professors K. Ross Toole and Thomas Payne, will engage in panel discussions on the topics "Principles and Pragmatism in Politics," "Campaigns and Ethics," and a debate on "Should a Young Person Enter Politics Today?".

The conference will exemplify the aim of the MCH state program by bringing together politicians, academic humanists, and members of the public in dialogue on the crucial questions of morality in politics. Particularly at this time of public uneasiness about the political process, the program is expected to bring important insights from the humanities to urgent public concerns. At a moment when the emotions surrounding immediate events are running high, reflection on the historical sweep of events and on basic ethical dilemmas of human action can allow a deeper assessment of where we are and the value choices by which we live.

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MICHAEL WLAZER

The second annual MCH conference seeks to deepen and strengthen the rational consideration of such fundamental value questions by creating an interchange among those who exercise power and those who have reflected on its use and misuse.

You are urged to take this opportunity to hear this extraordinary interchange among prominent politicians and humanists and to engage personally in dialogue with them.

For further information and reservations ($14.00 single; $18.00 double), write the MCH office, 322 Turner Hall, University of Montana, Missoula.

The program schedule is as follows:

**Friday, November 30**

1:00-3:00

**Opening Remarks**
President Robert T. Pantzer, MCH Chairman and President, University of Montana

Dr. Len Oliver, Assistant Director for State-Based Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities

**Brief Review of First Year**
Dr. Bruce Sievers, Director, MCH

1:45-3:15

**Panel: Project Directors of MCH Programs**
Ms. Daphne Bugbee, TV Committee for Political Dialogue, Missoula
Prof. Richard Reese, Public Forum: Montana Coal and Energy Development, Helena
Mr. Jeff Rupp, Who Governs? 1776 vs. 1973, Bozeman
Mr. Del Siewert, Public Affairs Forum, Helena
Mr. John Smith, Genesis of Political Power in Montana, Hamilton

3:30-5:30

**Panel: "Principles and Pragmatism in Politics**
Former Governor Forrest Anderson, Helena
Prof. Ulysses Doss, Director, Black Studies, University of Montana
Mr. Marshall Murray, Attorney, Kalispell
Rep. Pat Regan, Billings
Prof. Richard Roeder, Dept. of History, Montana State University

**Panel: "Political Campaigns and Ethics"**
Prof. Thomas Dicken, Religious Studies, Rocky Mountain College
Prof. Thomas Payne, Political Science, University of Montana
Ms. Carol Mitchell, representative of Montana Common Cause
Mr. Joe Renders, Public Relations Associates, Great Falls

5:30-6:30

No-Host Cocktails

6:30-8:30

Dinner
**Address by Dr. Rollo May**

**Saturday, December 1**

8:00-9:00

Breakfast

9:00-10:00

**Address by Prof. Michael Walzer**

10:00-11:00

**Panel: "Morality in Politics"**
Dr. Rollo May
Senator Harold Hughes
Prof. Michael Walzer

11:00-11:30

Coffee and Rolls

11:30-1:15

**Panel Debate: "Should a Young Person Enter Politics Today?"**
**Pro:** Attorney General Robert Woodahl
Prof. K. Ross Toole, Dept. of History, University of Montana
**Con:** Mr. Don Garrity, Attorney, Helena
Professor Richard Chapman, Dept. of Political Science, University of Montana

1:30-3:00

Luncheon
**Address by Senator Harold Hughes**

## Insanity and the Law

What rights do the "insane" have? Is the insanity defense legitimate? Should the state commit people involuntarily to mental institutions? What, in fact, constitutes "insanity"?

The practical application of the humanities to these and other important legal questions in the "real" world was the central feature of a conference, "A Question of Insanity and the Law," sponsored by an ad hoc group under the direction of Professors Beal Mossman and James Leland, Billings.

The MCH-funded conference, the first of its kind in Montana, was held September 14-16 at Chico Hot Springs and attended by over 200 persons, including district judges, legislators, attorneys, state administrators, mental health workers and educators. Conference participants heard Kai Nielsen, a philosophy professor at the University of Calgary; George Alexander, Dean of the University of Santa Clara's law school; Alfred Louch, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Claremont Graduate School; Daniel Oran, professor at Antioch School of Law; and Douglas Walton, philosophy professor at the University of Winnepeg, discuss involuntary commitment of mental patients and insanity as a legal defense in a series of lectures and speeches.

Although Dr. Thomas Szasz, author and psychiatrist, who had been scheduled to address the conference, was unable to attend, the sessions constituted the most intensive and animated review of Montana law in the mental health field to have occurred in the state.

The conference speakers agreed the concept of mental illness has at its roots a philosophical distinction about the definition of "rightness" in human behavior. Nielsen said that rationality cannot be universally defined, since what is rational in one time and place is irrational in another, and therefore neither can insanity, because insanity is a label for irrationality viewed as sickness. Nielsen compared a wide variety of cultural practices in the world with those in western societies, asking by what universal yardstick one could declare one practice to be more or less "rational" or "sane" than another. This means, Nielsen said, psychiatrists should recognize that problems of "mental illness" are political and social problems as well as individual problems. Therefore, he said, philosophical distinctions play a major role in such actions as involuntary commitment to mental institutions.

Alexander said it is impossible to establish a just or effective system of involuntary commitment for mental illness, largely because the legal concept of "due process" is not sufficient to protect individuals against the abuse of such a system. People are committed, he said, not on the basis of whether their behavior is "healthy" but whether it is socially acceptable.

Alexander noted that the philosophical justification for incarceration under the unfair system is rooted in benevolence, with society saying that besides protecting itself, it is protecting and helping the individual. Alexander contends such justification is spurious. "Our history," he observed, "is replete with incidences when we 'helped' people until they were helpless... Good faith often passes as good judgement."

Philosopher Alfred Louch spoke to the question of the insanity defense, suggesting that a legal system can only operate on the presumption of

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# MCH AWARDS TWENTY NEW GRANTS

Eighteen grants, totaling $60,500 were made to groups throughout Montana by the MCH during the final portion of the first grant year. The grants made possible projects sponsored by citizens groups in the fields of education, the environment, Indian relationships, the family, political history, social organization, contemporary government, the press, consumerism, and volunteerism, all relating to the yearly theme, "Political Power in Montana."

The grants were awarded as follows:

**Montana Land Use Conference,** sponsored by the Montana Land Use Conference Committee, Billings. A three day conference on the relationship between human values and land use policies. Described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**The Emerging Role of American Indian Women in Montana,** sponsored by the Montana Affiliate of the North American Indian Women's Association, Browning. In-depth discussions of the contemporary status of American women in society, and their future political and social roles.

**Political Power in State Government,** sponsored by the Montana Committee for Public Information, Helena. A conference dealing with the nature of representation and citizen involvement in state government.

**Environment, Self-Determination, and Survival,** sponsored by the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, Butte. A four-part series of lectures and discussions dealing with individual and social forces relating to environmental issues.

**The Blackfeet Tribe's Quest for Justice,** sponsored by the Blackfeet Constitutional Convention for Public Dialogue, Browning. A series of meetings involving outside speakers on basic issues surrounding the future structure of tribal government.

**Political Power and the Press in Montana,** sponsored by the Montana Press Association, Helena. A panel held in conjunction with the Association's annual convention involving Governor Judge and others in discussion of politics and the press.

**The Energy Bomb/Justribution of Resources,** sponsored by the College of Great Falls. A week-long series of lectures and seminars on the relationship between social decision-making and the environment.

**The Indian's Role in Tribal, State, and Federal Government and Politics,** sponsored by the Bozeman Committee for Montana Indian Participation, Bozeman. A lecture-discussion series held in several locations in the State, featuring Maria Sanchez on the relationship between Indian and Non-Indian views of politics.

**Public Affairs Forum,** sponsored by the Montana Chamber of Commerce, Helena. A forum bringing together policymakers and professional humanists to discuss current Montana legislative issues.

**Montana Grassroots Organizations,** sponsored by the Great Falls Learning Center. A year-long series creating intensive involvement between outside resource people and Great Falls residents, examining the nature of grassroots political activity.

**Is the Family a Key to the Future of Political Power in Montana?** sponsored by the Christian Family Movement, Helena, Great Falls, Missoula. Three workshops on the status of the family in our contemporary social structure.

**Politics and Montana Higher Education,** sponsored by the Flathead Valley Community College, Kalispell. A year-long televised series of discussions about the nature and politics of higher education in Montana.

**Montana Memories,** sponsored by the Department of Film and Television Production, Montana State University, Bozeman. A film and television dialogue on Montana political history.

**The Consumerism Movement,** sponsored by the Billings Chamber of Commerce. A statewide program examining the nature and aims of consumerism.

**Public Involvement in Public Schools,** sponsored by Butee School District Number One. A three-part television series on decision-making in a local school system.

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## National Meeting of State-Based Committees

Psychologist Erik Erikson, historian David H. Donald, literary scholar William Schaefer, philosopher Charles Frankel, and Montana Committee for the Humanities Chairman Robert T. Pantzer were among those who addressed a national meeting of State-Based Committees for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Twelve of the thirteen members of the MCH were able to attend the May 2 - 3 conference in Washington, D. C. to exchange information and ideas with members of other state committees, and to hear four academic humanists speak of the relationship of their respective disciciplines to issues of public policy.

Recipient of this year's NEH Jefferson Lecture Award, Erikson delivered the endowed lecture series to a filled auditorium at the National Academy for the Sciences. He discussed the emergence of the new American identity in the Jeffersonian period, which was characterized, he said, by the ambivalence of Enlightenment ideals of liberty and equality, on the one hand, and repressive paternalism and moral self-righteousness, on the other.

In a panel which considered how the state-based program could realistically relate the humanities to public issues, Professor Frankel reminded the audience that "The humanities are the public disciplines... history, literature, philosophy, these are disciplines that are everybody's business... Those of you here who represent the public are instruments potentially for educating in the humanities, for bringing the humanities back to their business."

Professor Schaefer stressed that "the time is long overdue for society to begin demanding from the humanists what it has long demanded and received from the scientists: a practical application of theory. The Endowment's State-Based Program is without precedent. The idea of humanistic endeavor applied directly to current issues of public policy, is I feel potentially one of the most exciting adventures in our century."

President Robert Pantzer, Chairman of the Montana Committee, was one of four state chairmen invited to discuss their own program experiences. "We believe the program is extremely important in our State," Pantzer concluded, "We think it absolutely necessary, for we live in the kind of governmental situation whereby the governed must govern and this means public education and understanding. And I think that's the strength of the state-based program."

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**Big Brothers and Sisters--Volunteer Power,** sponsored by the Montana Organization for Volunteer Efforts, Helena. A two-day conference at Big Sky on volunteerism as a means of social action.

**Patterns in Montana Politics: An Historial Survey,** sponsored by the Helena Chapter of the American Association of University Women. A five-part series of lecture-discussions on Montana political history featuring MSU history professors Richard Roeder and Michael Malone.

**Montana History Lecture Series,** sponsored by Forward Great Falls, Friends of the Great Falls Public Library, and the League of Women Voters. A five-part series of lecture-discussions on Montana political history featuring MSU history professors Richard Roeder and Michael Malone.

### SECOND YEAR PROGRAMS

**Church and State in Montana,** sponsored by the Montana Forum on Church and State, Missoula. A televised panel discussion of historical and philosophical reasons for the tension between religion and politics.
**Ecology, Religion, and the American Dream,** sponsored by the Christian Campus Ministries, University of Montana. Lectures and discussions of the relationship between religious morality and ecology, featuring Dr. Richard Baer of the National Council of Churches of Christ.

# Land Use Conference

What has been the historic relationship between the land and human needs in America and in Montana? How is this relationship changing? What are our current land use priorities? Does our present economy present a threat to our land? What criteria might we use in judging the quality of our land use decisions? What are the moral issues involved?

You are invited to hear writers Ken Kesey and Richard Hugo, Friends of the Earth Head David Brower, and other distinguished Montana and out-of-state citizens discuss these and similar questions at a Montana Land Use Conference to be held at the Northern Hotel in Billings on November 8-10. The MCH-funded program will consist of a series of lectures and dialogues with humunists, business and professional people, politicians, and other concerned Montanans which will address itself to these and other land use issues. In addition to keynote speeches, the relationships between land use, individual rights, property rights, and the public interest will be addressed by a group of distinguished speakers and panelists including Professor Richard Baer of the Religious Studies Department of Earlham College in Indiana, who has specialized in the ethics of land use; Congressman John Melcher, Montana author A. B. Guthrie, Amy Roosevelt, social scientist from Denver; George O'Connor, President of the Montana Power Company; Dan Mizner, Director of the Montana League of Cities and Towns; Fletcher Newby, Director of Montana's Environmental Quality Council; Bruce Kelly of Exxon Solar Power Corproation; and Ms. Ruth Koch of the Montana Wilderness Association; and others from academic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental groups.

The five panels will focus on such specific topics as the need for a land use policy; the demands on Montana's land versus its capabilities; national land use programs; the politics of land planning; and property rights versus individual rights. The Montana Land Use Conference Committe, headed by Harrison Fagg, anticipates that the program will be attended by a broad cross section of Montanans eager to take advantage of this unique opportunity to participate in a meaningful learning experience and to weigh their perspectives against others in the light of the vitally important land use choices and decisions which Montanans will have to make in this decade.

For further information, contact Project Director G. Kimball Hart, Rt. 4, King Ave., Billings, 59101.

## Blackfeet Public Programs

Indian author Vine Deloria, Blackfeet Tribal Chairman Earl Old Person, law school professor John T. McDermott, anthropologist Carling Malouf, and historians William B. Evans, Richard Roeder, and K. Ross Toole are among the humanists and concerned citizens who participated throughout the summer in a series of public programs in Browning entitled, "The Blackfeet Tribe's Quest for Justice." Sponsored by the Blackfeet Constitutional Convention Committee for Public Dialogue under the direction of Harold Gray, and funded by the MCH, the series represented an important example of collaboration between the state humanities program and local and tribal groups concerned with a re-examination of the exercise of power in their own governmental structure.

On July 20 and 21, Mr. Earl Old Person, Dr. Les Davies of the MSU Anthropology Department, and Mr. Iliff McKay of the Association of American Indian Affairs participated in panel discussions on "Issues Leading to the Blackfeet Constitutional Convention," and "Blackfeet Tribal Government Effects on the Geopolitics of Montana." On the weekend of August 3-4 author Deloria, historians Evans and Toole, and political scientist Ellis Waldron participated with reservation residents in discussions and workshops on the subjects of "Fundamentals of Constitution Making" and "The Right of Tribal Sovereignty." All of the issues discussed in this series have pertained to the revision of the Blackfeet Tribe's Constitution, and the dialogues have illustrated the variety of ways in which humanists can bring their perspectives of history, literature, philosophy, and the law to bear on issues of immediate concern to tribal members. The public involvement and intensive discussions may have an effect on the content of the new tribal constitution, scheduled to be voted on in the Spring of 1974.

## On Political Power In State Government

Citizens had the chance to express their views about state government in a conference on "Political Power in State Government" held in Helena November 3. The conference, sponsored by the Montana Committee for Public Information and MCH-funded, examined such questions as: Are citizens alienated from government, and, if so, how can they be encouraged to participate in the state's governmental processes? What are the legislators' responsibilities to their consciences and to their constituents? How well do legislators represent their constituents?

Humanists, legislators, lobbyists, and concerned citizens conducted panels and workshops designed to explore these and other issues on the theory and reality of representative democracy, as it works in Montana.

Speakers and panelists included Lt. Governor Bill Christiansen; State Senators Fred Carl and James Harrison; State Representatives Dorothy Bradley, Robert Brown, Ruth Castles, Tom Towe, George Turman, and Walter Ulmer; Chairman of MSU's Department of History, Government, and Philosophy Pierce Mullen; University of Montana Professors K. Ross Toole of the History Department, and Henrietta Whiteman, Director of Indian Studies; Barry Nolan, Director of the State Chamber of Commerce; State AFL-CIO officer Harry Billings, and a number of other Montanans prominent in agricultural, legal, environmental, and poverty organizations.

Topics discussed included the history of political power in state government, the right to know versus the right to privacy, citizen participation and legislative decision making, how to organize citizen efforts, and other issues of participatory democracy.

"This conference, including legislative profiles and voting records, may be the most intensive examination of the legislature ever to have taken place in Montana," says Robin Tawney Project Director. "We hope that it may help people become more interested and involved in state government."

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE MONTANA PUBLIC PROGRAM IN THE HUMANITIES

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| **November** | |
| 3 | "Political Power in State Government," sponsored by the Montana Committee for Public Information; in Helena, High School. |
| 8-10 | "A Montana Land Use Conference," sponsored by the Montana Land Use Conference Committee; at the Northern Hotel in Billings. |
| 19-23 | "Cooperative Ventures"; sponsored by the Great Falls Learning Center; Great Falls Group Home, 3226 Central. Potluck Dinner, 6 P.M., Dec. 19. |
| **November 30-December 1** | MCH Second Annual State Conference; theme, "Politics: The Dilemma of Power and Morality," with Senator Harold Hughes, Dr. Rollo May, and Prof. Michael Walzer; at the Ramada Inn in Billings. |
| **December** | |
| 8 | "Experimental Schools in Montana," sponsored by the Great Falls Learning Center; YWCA, 10 A.M.-4:30 P.M. |

## New Committee Members

The MCH is extremely fortunate to be able to announce the addition of two more distinguished Montanans, Mrs. John M. Cross and Mrs. R. D. Warden, to the Committee. Their participation brings total Committee membership to fifteen.

Louise Cross of Glendive is a former Chairwoman of the Natural Resources Committee of the Constitutional Convention, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Montana Museum Association. She is presently the Acting Curator of the Frontier Gateway Museum in Glendive and a member of the Environmental Health Subcommittee of the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. Mrs. Cross is also an active member of the American Association of University Women.

Margaret S. Warden of Great Falls was also a Constitutional Convention delegate and is well-known statewide and nationally for her contributions to numerous library programs. A member of the Montana State Library Commission and State President of the Montana Library Association, she is also the chairwoman of the Great Falls Public Library Board, as well as being a member of the National Committee and the Recruitment Committee of the American Library Association and a member of the Legislative Committee and the White House Conference Committee of the American Library Trustees Association. Mrs. Warden is also a member of the Ad Hoc Building Committee of the Classroom and Office Building at MSU. Her name is listed in *Who's Who of American Women* and is to appear in the forthcoming edition of *Who's Who in Women of the World.*

*"Insanity,"*
*(continued from page 2)*

responsibility and that the introduction of a concept like insanity undermines the entire framework of the system.

While the major conference speakers were highly critical of the use of the concept of "insanity" for legal purposes, either for involuntary commitment or for criminal defense, these views sparked intensive controversy among the conference participants, who included psychiatrists, state legislators, staff members of state institutions, social workers, and others from across Montana. It is clear that the relevance and interest of this topic provided for a stimulating dialogue on a multi-faceted subject which has not yet been exhausted.

If you know of others who would care to receive this newsletter, or if you wish to have an application or further information on the Montana Committee for the Humanities, please write:

Bruce Sievers, Director
Montana Committee for the Humanities
322 Turner Hall
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59801

A complete list of audio-visual selections from MCH-funded projects is now available. You may obtain a copy by writing the MCH office.

**The Montana Committee for the Humanities**

Dr. Robert T. Pantzer, Chairman
President, University of Montana, Missoula
Mr. Earl J. Barlow
Supervisor of Schools. Browning
Mrs. Louise Cross
American Association of University Women, Glendive
Mr. David Drum
Businessman, Billings
Prof. Roy Huffman
Vice President for Research, Montana State University, Bozeman
Mrs. Alma Jacobs
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Mr. William MacKay Jr.
Rancher, Roscoe
Prof. Pierce Mullen
Chairman, Department of History, Philosophy and Government, Montana State University, Bozeman
Mr. James Murry
Executive Secretary, Montana State AFL-CIO, Helena
Mr. Bradley Parrish
Attorney, Lewistown
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Executive Director, Montana State Bicentennial Commission
Prof. John Van de Wetering
Chairman, Department of History
University of Montana, Missoula
Prof. Joseph Ward
Professor of English and Humanities, Carroll College, Helena
Mrs. Margaret S. Warden
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